

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



8694  
United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

---

**SANFOIN** (*Onobrychis sativa*).

Sanfoin is a deep-rooting perennial legume which is especially adapted for growing on calcareous soils too poor to grow clover or alfalfa. On such soils as this it is largely grown in Europe; but thus far has been but little utilized in this country. It is quickly killed when the ground becomes saturated with water, and it is therefore not suited for growth in poorly drained soil. Under careful irrigation it is a satisfactory crop to grow, but can hardly compete with alfalfa. On such irrigated lands it is largely grown in British Columbia. Sanfoin is rather difficult to establish, but when once well rooted will live for twenty years or more. If used for pasture, care is necessary not to pasture too closely, as under such circumstances it does not recover readily.

*Varieties.*—There are two varieties of sanfoin commonly cultivated in Europe—the single cutting, from which one crop of hay per year can be cut, and the double cutting, from which two crops can be cut.

*Seed.*—The seed of the sanfoin occurs on the market entirely in the pod, a bushel of which weighs 20 pounds. It is, perhaps, largely on account of the pod that it is so difficult to obtain a stand with this crop unless the conditions are favorable.

*Sowing.*—Seed is best sown broadcast, although it may be drilled. On account of the large size of the seed and the fact that it is gathered with the pod, the seed should be planted much deeper than that of most crops. Heavy seeding is desirable, and from 4 to 6 bushels of the seed are required to the acre. In the drier sections of the country it is desirable to use barley or some other grain as a nurse crop. In the South, fall sowing is recommended, and in the North, spring sowing.

*Suggestions.*—Sanfoin is so important a crop in Europe that it should be more extensively tested in this country, particularly in calcareous soils. In the semi-arid region it deserves much more extensive trial than has yet been given it.

